

Name: _____ Date: _____

“WINTER OAK” BY YURI NAGIBIN ANALYSIS GUIDE

VOCABULARY

Define the following terms that appear in this short story. You should use context clues from the story to define them, and only refer to a dictionary if you are stuck.

Term	Definition
Surmised	
Saturated	
Plaintive	
Peremptory	
Invariably	
Ingenuous	
Flaccid	
Magpies	
Magnanimous	
Sentinel	
Impotence	

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SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

Respond to the following questions on a separate sheet of paper. Use your board note titled “Short Story Literary Elements” to help you answer these questions. Remember to include evidence from the story to support your answers.

1. Why is Anna “upset and sad” on page 62? What does this say about the type of teacher she is?
 - a. What is the difference between being upset and being sad?
2. What is the significance of the meeting with Frolov on the path on page 58?
3. Provide an example of, and evaluate the use of, the following literary devices throughout the text.
 - a. Simile
 - b. Imagery
 - c. Personification
4. On page 64, the narrator observes that Anna realizes “here in the forest she’d do well to keep quiet”. What is the meaning of this observation?
5. Discuss the symbolism of both the path and the oak for Anna’s cathartic realization.
6. On page 66, why is Savushkin skeptical that Anna can find her way home?
7. By the end of the story, how does the student become the teacher? Explain the significance of this role reversal for Anna’s catharsis.